

February 21, 2017

Senator Osten
Senator Formica
Representative Walker
Senator Gerratana
Representative Dillon
Senator Somers
Members for the Appropriations Committee

RE: H.B. No. 7027 Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 20, 2019.

Good morning, Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Representative Dillon, Senator Somers, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Nancy Kettner and I am (the Medical Assistant at Newtown Middle School-School Based Health Center. This letter is sent to testify on H.B. No. 7027, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2019.

I'm writing today because I care about children. Every child deserves a chance to be healthy and to reach their full potential in life. But many children have health problems that make it difficult for them to learn and succeed. We want young people in CT to be healthy and thriving. School based health centers help young people with their mental health problems, their physical health problems, or their oral health problems. Our School Based Health Center has helped many students like Noelle who was so anxious that it would affect her school attendance and class time. Our Licensed Social Worker met with her daily and got her back to class. She is a thriving 8th grader today. A new 7th grader, Logan, who moved to Newtown last summer had such anger and anxiety coming to a new school. Our Nurse Practitioner helped him with listening to his heart and assuring him that his heart was healthy. Our Licensed Social worker has also given him the tools to deal with his anxiety. He comes once a week now, to touch base with our Licensed Social Worker. Our School Based Health Center has made a significant difference to our students.

Please maintain funding to School Based Health Centers in our state so that young people can continue to thrive and stay in school. This is critical to their future.

Thank you for supporting School Based Health Centers.

Nancy Kettner
Newtown Middle School – School Based Health Center
11 Queen Street
Newtown, CT 06470
Medical Assistant